Japanese parents generally give their baby an original name. They ponder what name the baby should have from every angle, especially the meaning of *kanji* (Chinese characters). They often chose *kanji* while hoping their baby would become a good person like the meaning that the kanji expresses. What meaning or hope does my name have? I have pondered my name recently.

To begin with, I tried to research the origin of my name. The person who named me is my grandmother. I wanted to ask her why she gave me this name, but I can’t ask her because she has already passed away. I asked my parents about it; however, both my father and my mother told me, “I don’t know because your grandmother named you.” I thus gave up researching the origin of my name.

I next consulted a dictionary of *kanji* in order to check the meaning of the *kanji* used for my name. The *kanji*真 (“ma”) seems to mean truth and also to lack nothing, and the *kanji*里 (“ri”) seems to mean fields or villages. Now I can guess that my grandmother hoped for me to be an honest and warm person like the fields, and not to have any great needs.

I noticed I dislike my own name as a result of reflecting whether I like my name or not. Though there are many women and girls named Mari, most of their names are written 真理. Therefore, my friends and teachers often write the wrong *kanji* for my name. My grandmother might have wanted an unusual *kanji*, but this is why I don’t like my name very much.

My grandmother, who gave me my name, seems to have hoped for me to be a warm, honest, and perfect person like the fields. It is extremely difficult for me to fulfill her wishes, but still I would like to remember those wishes at all times.